

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HAMILTON FOR SISCO

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JEREMIAH O'LEARY PAGE NINE BYLINER, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, WASHINGTON STAR, HEADLINED "THE MORNING AFTER THE ARAB SUMMIT."

2. HAVING MANEUVERED THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION INTO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE RABAT SUMMIT MEETING, ARAB LEADERS ARE NOW LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO RESCUE THEM FROM THEIR OWN RHETORIC.

3. WHILE IT IS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR WHAT THE ARAB LEADERS REALLY AGREED UPON AT RABAT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE FIRST TENSE REACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY, IN ISRAEL, UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE RELAXING SOMEWHAT. ONE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE

14-NATION DECISION MAKING ARAB SUMMIT WILL FIRST OF ALL BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING BETWEEN KING HUSSAIN OF JORDAN AND PLO LEADER YASSIR ARAFAT TO BE HELD SOON IN AMMAN.

4. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, WHO INTENDS TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST NEXT WEEK FOR SOME PERSONAL ASSESSMENTS OF THE SITUATION, ARRIVED IN THE PAKISTANI CAPITAL TODAY STILL UNSURE OF WHAT THE RABAT DECISION MEANS TO THE

LEADERS MOST AFFECTED. THOSE LEADERS ARE THE ONES WHO WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT THE ISRAELIS IF THERE WAS A NEW OUT-BREAK OF HOSTILITIES -- PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT, PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD OF SYRIA AND KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN.

5. THE POINTS OF VIEW ON THE PLO DECISION OF SUCH ARAB STATES AS MOROCCO, ALGERIA, THE EMIRATES, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE TWO RADICALS -- IRAQ AND LIBYA -- HAVE NO REAL BEARING ON THE MATTER. THESE NATIONS, ALONG WITH SYRIA, NORMALLY ESPOUSE THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR A HOMELAND AS A MEANS OF PROVING THEIR DEDICATION TO ARABISM. IT IS ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO KING HASSAN FOR DEMONSTRATING HIS LIBERALISM. BUT NONE OF THESE COUNTRIES HAS TO LIVE WITH THE DECISION AS DO THE EGYPTIANS, SYRIANS AND JORDANIANS.

6. SADAT IS IN ALGERIA AND WILL NOT BE BACK IN CAIRO FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

7. (BUT IN A STATEMENT CARRIED BY THE OFFICIAL MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY YESTERDAY, SADAT HAILED THE SUMMIT AS "A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY" THAT CREATED "A NEW STATE IN THE AREA -- PALESTINE."

8. "THE SUMMIT SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING THEM (JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS) TOGETHER SO WE ARE NOT WORRIED ANY MORE ABOUT GENEVA (SITE OF THE SCHEDULED PEACE CONFERENCE). WHEN WE ARE A UNITED ARAB FRONT, WE ARE VICTORIOUS," SADAT SAID.)

9. ASSAD'S STAND IS TOTALLY PREDICTABLE SINCE HE HAS ALWAYS FAVORED SEPARATE PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIA-

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TIONS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN ARAB STATE. HUSSEIN'S REACTION IS GENERALLY UNKNOWN DESPITE HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS.

10. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME CERTAINTIES IN THIS COMPLEX TURN OF EVENTS. ONE OF THESE IS THAT ISRAEL IS NOT ABOUT TO START NEGOTIATING WITH JORDAN FOR RETURN OF THE WEST BANK IF JORDAN IS COMMITTED TO HANDING IT OVER TO THE

PALESTINIANS.

11. ANOTHER CERTAINTY IS THAT HUSSEIN HAS NOT GIVEN UP HIS OWN ASPIRATIONS FOR REGAINING HIS WEST BANK NO MATTER WHAT THE SUMMIT DECISION APPEARS TO SAY. KEY TO THE MATTER IS THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT IN U.S. DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES THAT EGYPT, JORDAN AND EVEN SYRIA ARE PREPARED TO COEXIST WITH ISRAEL.

12. KING FAISAL'S PRIVATE VIEWPOINT ON THE PLO NEGOTIATING

ROLE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE HE BANKROLLS MUCH OF WHAT THE ARAB STATES DO IN RELATION TO ISRAEL AND EACH OTHER. AND SADAT, ONCE MORE, IS CRUCIAL TO THE PEACE FORMULA IN TERMS OF WHETHER HE VIEWS THE PALESTINIANS AS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN HIS OWN DESIRE TO REGAIN LOST TERRITORIES.

13. IT IS REGARDED AS UNLIKELY THAT THE SUMMIT DECISION WILL PRECIPITATE A FIFTH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR FOR THE NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS. IF THE ARABS INTENDED NEW HOSTILITIES, THEY WOULD HAVE TO START MASSING FORCES ALONG THE SUEZ AND GOLAN FRONTS WHERE THEY WOULD BE AMPLY OBSERVED BY BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE U.N. PEACE FORCES. NO SUCH MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN NOTED.

14. IF THE ARABS SHOULD BEGIN MOBILIZING EITHER AS A BLUFF OR WITH AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS, THE ISRAELIS UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD MAKE NO DISTINCTION AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO LAUNCH A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.

15. THE ISRAELI MANEUVERS IN THE WEST BANK AREA ARE NOT REGARDED AS PRESAGING A SURPRISE ATTACK. ISRAEL CAN AFFORD TO WAIT WATCHFULLY WHILE THE ARABS TRY TO SORT
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OUT WHERE THEY STAND NOW THAT THE EUPHORIA OF THE PLO DECISION IS WEARING OFF. WESTERN OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE ARABS KNOW THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT BE THE SITTING DUCKS FOR SURPRISE ATTACK IN ANOTHER ROUND OF WAR THAT THEY WERE LAST OCTOBER.

16. THE RADICAL ARABS AND THE ARABS NOT DIRECTLY CONFRONTING ISRAEL HAVE GONE HOME FROM RABAT NOW AND THE REAL FOCUS LIES WITH THE SAME OLD ADVERSARIES. THE FOCUS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE LIES WITH HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT, BY REPUTE ONE OF THE MORE MODERATE OF THE PALESTINIAN LEADERS. THE KEY TO THE MIDDLE EAST NOW LIES WITH WHETHER HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT CAN WORK OUT A MODUS VIVENDI THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ISRAELIS FOR CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

17. SHOULD THERE BE A DECLARATION BY ARAFAT OF NON-BELLIGERENCY, OR A CONDEMNATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISM, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE SOME HEAVY THINKING TO DO ABOUT ITS LONG-STANDING OPPOSITION TO ANY NEW ARAB STATE ON HER BORDERS. SHOULD HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT AGREE TO NEGOTIATE JOINTLY UNDER THE JORDANIAN AEGIS WITH SOME INDETERMINATE REFERENCE TO A FUTURE CHANGE OF ROLE FOR THE PALESTINIANS LATER ON, THAT MIGHT FLY.

18. IN SHORT, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR THAT THE RABAT DECISION IS THE END OF REASON OR A RUBICON CROSSED. KISSINGER WILL TOUCH BASE WITH ASSAD, SADAT, HUSSEIN, FAISAL AS WELL AS THE ISRAELI LEADERS NEXT WEEK BUT HE LOOKS AND ACTS UNLIKE A MEDIATOR WHO HAS SEEN HIS LAST CHANCES OF A SETTLEMENT GO AGLIMMERING. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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